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Date: November 10, 2009 Name: Tadashi Horie, Reg. No. 40,437 Signature: 

Attorney Docket No. 9683/261

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Satoru ADACHI et al.)	
)	
Serial No. 10/680,205)	
)	Examiner: Patel, Jayesh A.
Filing Date: October 8, 2003)	
)	Group Art Unit No. 2624
For: IMAGE ENCODING METHOD, IMAGE)	
DECODING METHOD, IMAGE)	
ENCODING APPARATUS, IMAGE)	Confirmation No. 7459
DECODING APPARATUS, IMAGE)	
ENCODING PROGRAM, AND IMAGE)	
DECODING PROGRAM)	
)	

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In reply to the Final Office Action dated August 25, 2009, please consider the following Amendments and Remarks:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. No amendments have been made to any of claims 28-30 in this communication.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.